

9/03/17 Akema Update, as of 2015:

- At about 0900 the local sheriff air recon crew performed an overflight of the facility and still saw the same yellow liquid material spill on the ground. The overflight also indicated that the back doors of two of the trailers were pushed open indicating that a reaction and subsequent pressurization of the chemicals inside trailers continues.
- The UC discussed to reintroduced the plan to manually ignite the remaining peroxide trailers in a controlled method to eliminate the risk of an uncontrolled event. The plan was approved by the RP in coordination with UC and executed. At around 1530 the trailers were ignited and allowed to burn themselves out. The intense fire and heavy smoke lasted for about 40 minutes at which time the smoke started to significantly dissipate.
- EPA conducted air monitoring throughout the manual ignition and subsequent fire and all reading indicated non-detect.
- ASPECT provided, visual observation, air monitoring and photo documentation during the event. ASPECT detected very low levels of peroxide at about 50 meters downwind from the source.
- After the fire cleared and the UC had a consensus that it was safe for monitoring teams enter the 1.5-mile evacuation/exclusion zone in a safe manner, the county health and environmental pollution agencies requested EPA assistance to join their air monitoring efforts inside the zone in coordination with their teams and the RP's team. The plan is to gradually re-enter the zone gradually from the outer edges towards the center. The county would use the air monitoring results before deciding on lifting the 1.5-mile evacuation order later tonight.
- Depending on the results of the air monitoring and the decision by the county officials to whether or not lift the evacuation order, EPA will decide later tonight if maintaining a rotational 24-hrs presence and air monitoring capabilities at the incident command operations center will be necessary.

3 EPA, 6 START (all on rotation)